

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Sidney Katz
Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

To the esteemed members of the Montgomery County Council,

The purpose of this letter is to voice my support for Montgomery Community Media, Montgomery County's nonprofit public access media center. As the Vice President of the Board of Montgomery Community Media, I am proud to be a part of MCM's mission to inform, connect and educate the over one million residents of the county.

Now more than ever, equitable access to hyper-local news and information is critical.

MCM connects our communities to the valuable COVID-19 information provided by our local leaders in government, public health and information offices. MCM has created easy access to coronavirus related news with a dedicated section on our website, www.mymcmmedia.org. In addition to the website, you can find MCM on:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- You Tube
- and 3 cable channels.

They are all platforms dedicated to hyper-local news and information ABOUT Montgomery County, filling the void of local news felt by so many of us.

We also distribute the stories and programs created by county residents, reflecting our great diversity and inclusive of the underserved.

At MCM, citizens can learn how to write, edit and post their video stories using a smart phone, becoming the storytellers of their own experiences.

Through partnership and collaboration, MCM helps other nonprofit organizations from around the county create video programs. One such program, Studio 501c3, is still remotely creating programming to connect other local nonprofits with the communities they serve, which is vitally important, especially during times of crisis.

So, I ask each of you to please continue full funding for Montgomery Community Media and the valuable service they provide.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Vernon Ricks
Vice President
MCM Board of Directors